

Informal briefing by the co-facilitators on the preparations for the preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The co-facilitators of the preparatory process, H.E. Mr. Álvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal and H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations convened an informal briefing on Wednesday, 1 February 2017 for Members States and stakeholders on the preparations for the preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

In the briefing, the co-facilitators presented the draft programme of work of the preparatory meeting, which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 15-16 February 2017. The preparatory meeting will consider the themes for the partnership dialogues and elements for a “Call for Action”. The co-facilitators expect participants to focus and provide specific views on the topics to be discussed. The co-facilitators stressed transparency and inclusiveness of the preparatory process in order to rally broad support from the international community to the implementation of SDG 14. Side events will be organized in the margins of the preparatory meeting from 14 to 16 February, and the programme is available on the Conference website. A lunch time event will be held on 15 February to launch online registration of voluntary commitments. The preparatory meeting will have an overflow room and will be webcasted.

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to Fiji and Sweden, having co-hosting responsibilities of the Conference, on oceans and legal matters, and Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director of Division for Sustainable Development of UN-DESA on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Conference, presented the Secretary-General’s background note for the preparatory meeting, which contains a proposal for themes of the partnership dialogues.

H.E. Mr. Per Thöresson, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden, and H.E. Mr. Luke Daunivalu, Chargé d’Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations attended the briefing. In their remarks, they highlighted that the Conference will be a platform to accelerate efforts for the implementation of SDG 14 with innovative partnerships and voluntary commitments by Governments and all stakeholders. They informed that the appointment of the co-chairs of the partnership dialogues by the Presidents of the Conference will begin after the preparatory meeting. They encouraged Member States and stakeholders to contribute to the trust fund of the Conference.

Ecuador on behalf of G77 and China, and Maldives on behalf of AOSIS made remarks. They said that the preparatory meeting is a milestone in the preparations for the Ocean Conference. They fully support and commit to this process and will engage constructively. They also stressed high-level participation in the Conference, and called for contributions to the trust fund to support participation of developing countries in the Conference.